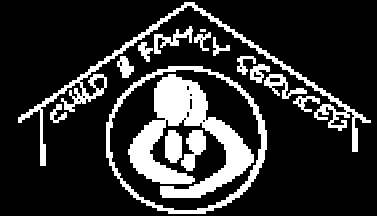


Inside CFSA...

*Biweekly FAQs & Facts FAX
For Our Child-Serving Community*

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June 7, 2002

Volume 1, Number 6

CFSA National Advisory Panel to Provide Support

Consistent with the October 2000 consent order ending the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) federal court receivership, which envisioned a National Advisory Panel made up of national child welfare experts to advise the CFSA Director, CFSA convened the Panel's first meeting in April 2002. Drawing on lessons learned through an initial planning meeting in October 2001, CFSA selected nine Advisory Panel members based on their substantive expertise, experience in major urban child welfare systems and diversity of backgrounds. With funding provided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Panel will ensure that CFSA has the technical advice and support necessary to make further progress coupled with good sound advice, strong criticism and concrete guidance from some of the best leaders in the urban child welfare community.

Members will attend 3 to 4 one-day meetings per year for two years and provide advice and consultation in one or more of CFSA's strategic priority areas. Specific topics targeted for attention so as to draw on national expertise and best practices include staff training, organizational culture, community-based and contracted services, child fatality reviews, and the Family Court. Each meeting is structured to address one or two major issues in some depth, drawing on the perspectives of all the members and the work accomplished between meetings by members and staff. The panel is also to identify and assess new and emerging issues, concerns, and proposals. Over the two-year period, the panel will develop written reports, including analysis and options for action, as requested by CFSA's Director.

The board is comprised of the following members: **William Bell**, Commissioner, Administration for Children and Families, (New York, NY); Honorable **Ernestine Gray**, Presiding Judge of New Orleans Family Court, Chair of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges, (New Orleans, LA); **Frank Farrow**, Director, The Center for the Study of Social Policy, (Washington, DC); **Judith Goodhand**, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Consultant, also former Director of Children and Families, Cuyahoga County (Chapel Hills, NC); **Vincent Gray**, Director, Covenant House, (Washington, DC); Professor **Ruth Zambrana**, University of Maryland, (College Park, MD); **Barbara Solomon**, Vice Provost, University of California, (Los Angeles, CA); **Joyce Thomas**, Director, Center for Child Protection and Family Support, (Washington, DC); and Dr. **Carol Wilson Spigner**, University of Pennsylvania, (Philadelphia, PA).

National Foster Care Month Celebrated

May is recognized as National Foster Care Month, a time to salute the foster care community especially foster parents who continue to open their homes and hearts to children in the foster care system.

On Saturday May 18, CFSA honored kinship, foster, and adoptive parents at an appreciation celebration and luncheon. The event was held at the Ferebee Hope Community School in SE Washington where the keynote speaker, the Honorable Council Member Sandy Allen (Ward 8), acknowledged the important contributions of foster parents.

"I want to take this opportunity to convey to you how very much I appreciate you for doing the hardest yet most important job ever, parenting," stated Golden in a statement read in her absence. "Without your willingness to open your hearts and homes to wonderful children none of the hard work we do here would be possible. Please enjoy this ceremony and celebrate your success as loving parents."

Certificates and door prizes were awarded to all parents, and special recognition was given to families who have provided foster care services for 20 years or more. In addition, the Foster

Parent Association received a mayoral proclamation declaring the Month of May as Foster Care Month in the District of Columbia.

The Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Collaboratives also showed their support to CFSA foster parents in various ways, including displaying banners as an expression of their appreciation. Other Collaboratives held special meetings and recruitment activities in honor of foster parents, while building links to their immediate communities.

Agency Launches New Website

The Child and Family Services Agency is excited to announce the launching of our new website which occurred on Tuesday, May 28th. We are now officially a part of the District of Columbia's web portal, which features all of the District's agencies including the Office of the Mayor's webpage at dc.gov. Since the new site has been launched, the former website dcchilandfamilyservices.com will be discontinued and the address will automatically transfer all visitors to the new site. Please take a moment to visit our new website at <http://cfsa.dc.gov> and stay tuned for other exciting information.

CFSA Welcomes New Deputy

Native Washingtonian, Sharlynn E. Bobo, joins CFSA's senior management team as Deputy Director for Licensing, Monitoring and Placement Support. She brings over 27 years of local, state and national experience in a number of areas including child welfare, juvenile delinquency, substance abuse treatment and prevention, and mental health, to name a few. The former Operations Director of Progressive Life Center, Ms.

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Bobo holds an MSW in social work and is presently working on her doctorate at Howard University School of Social Work.